



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: September 28, 2006

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## **FORMER JACKSONVILLE POLICE OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, RETALIATION**

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 33-year-old former Jacksonville police officer has pleaded guilty to civil rights violations and retaliating against a witness. **LARRY M. PUGH** admitted to the charges before a United States Magistrate Judge in Tyler.

According to evidence introduced by prosecutors, Pugh admitted that on two occasions in 2005, while a Jacksonville police officer, he violated the civil rights of two women by forcing them to have sex with him while he was on duty and in uniform. In one incident, he had arrested the woman and then released her after she had sex with him. In the other incident, Pugh offered the woman a courtesy ride, then took her to a trailer house where he had sex with her and then returned her to her neighborhood.

Pugh also admitted to retaliating against one of the women for providing information to law enforcement officials. Specifically, he admitted that he confronted the woman, wrapped his belt around her neck, and attempted to drag her into his van. In doing so, the woman suffered physical injuries.

In the plea agreement, Pugh and the United States agreed that he should receive a sentence of 12 years in federal prison. He also faces a fine of up to \$450,000. A sentencing date has not been set.

The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cherokee County District Attorney's Office and the Jacksonville Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Alan Jackson and Wes Rivers.

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